

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 8539

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 16961

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIANS REQUEST FOR BILATERAL AT NAC MINISTERIAL

1. DCM RECEIVED URGENT CALL THIS MORNING FROM ERIC DARIN, MFA'S COORDINATOR OF NATO AND DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS. DARIN SAID THAT FONMIN MARIANO RUMOR STRONGLY WISHES TO HAVE BILATERAL WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER NEXT WEEK AT NATO MINISTERIAL. HE NOTED THE LATENESS OF REQUEST BUT ASKED US TO BE UNDERSTANDING GIVEN THAT NEW MORO GOVERNMENT HAD ONLY JUST BEEN INSTALLED AND IS STILL AWAITING FORMAL VOTE OF CONFIDENCE BY HOUSE EXPECTED FOR SATURDAY.

2. EMBASSY STRONGLY SUPPORTS THIS REQUEST AND FEELS WE SHOULD MAKE EXTRA EFFORT TO ASSIST NEW MORO GOVERNMENT WHICH SEEMS TO BE MAKING A PROMISING START. FOR EXAMPLE, DECEMBER 5, 1974 ON SENATE FLOOR MORO MADE STRONG POSITIVE DEFENSE OF ITALIAN DECISION TO AGREE TO LA MADDALENA NAVAL SUPPORT FACILITIES IN A STATEMENT (TEXT FOLLOWS IN AIRGRAM) THAT OPENLY TIED TOGETHER NATO AND US-ITALIAN EFFORTS AIMED AT PRESERVING MEDITERRANEAN EQUILIBRIUM IN SERVICE OF PEACE AND SECURITY FOR ITALY AND ALL THE ALLIES. WE UNDERSTAND THAT RUMOR HELPED TO ASSURE THAT MORO USED THIS STATEMENT WHICH HAD BEEN PREPARED BY THE MFA'S NATO DESK.

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3. IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL IF THE SECRETARY COULD MEET
WITH RUMOR EVEN BRIEFLY ON THE MARGINS OF THE NAC MINISTERIAL
EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS RUMOR PLANS TO ARRIVE IN BRUSSELS
AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 11. VOLPE

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